



## Tree Board

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Wellington City Hall, 12300 W. Forest Hill Blvd.  
Council Chambers

## MINUTES

### I. Call To Order

Vice Chairperson, Debbie Evans called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

Observed.

### III. Attendance

#### A. Sign In Sheet

Members present: Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell

Members absent: Stormi Bivin, William Gross, Joan Kaplan

Staff present: Brian Hopper, Operations Supervisor, Landscape Division, Chris Macfarlane, Assistant Recording Secretary.

### IV. Meeting Minutes

#### A. March 1, 2017 Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Debbie Evans asked that a correction be made on page 2, third paragraph, to change "obtaining" to "obtain."

**A motion was made by Charles Sandell, seconded by Kay Brown to approve and adopt the March 1, 2017 Tree Board meeting minutes, as corrected, approved unanimously by Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell (4-0) with Stormi Bivin, William Gross and Joan Kaplan absent.**

### V. Staff Updates

#### A. Recent Plantings and Status Updates – Brian Hopper

Brian Hopper distributed a tree planting list, which documents trees planted in Wellington by the Landscape Division since the last Tree Board meeting on March 1, 2017.

Mr. Hopper distributed a Tree Seedling Giveaway Summary sheet to the Tree Board members showing that 4,383 tree seedlings (Firebush) were delivered to the schools and given to students to take home

and plant in April, to help celebrate Arbor Day. The middle and high schools received potted plants and the pre-K and elementary schools received small seedlings. Mr. Hopper reported that he received very positive feedback from the schools.

Richard Cosola asked if it is possible to give Elbridge Gale School some Oak trees to plant by the chain-link fence. Mr. Hopper advised that the Village does not grow their own Oak trees and does not provide trees as the schools are their own entity and are not funded by the Village. There was discussion if the property on the other side of the chain-link fence is on an easement. Mr. Hopper replied that he would check. Debbie Evans suggested that perhaps the Elbridge Gale School could take that on as a planting project since the idea is to teach children about sustainability and native plants.

Debbie Evans requested that the Eagle Arts Academy Charter School (former location of Wellington Christian School) be added to the list of schools for the annual tree seedling giveaway. Brian Hopper confirmed that Eagle Arts Academy will be added for next year's annual tree seedling giveaway.

Mr. Hopper informed the Tree Board members of the U.S. Sugar "Raisin" Cane day tour in Clewiston, which is held by the Sugar Cane League. If anyone is interested in going on the tour or would like additional information, they should contact Michelle Garvey. Charles Sandell and Kay Brown mentioned they have taken the tour and highly recommend it.

## VI. Old Business

### A. F.L.O.W.E.R. Award – Review Revised Form and Criteria

Tree Board members reviewed the revised F.L.O.W.E.R. Award form. Brian Hopper suggested that the addition of the new category, "Treemendous Tree" adhere to the criteria and that the nominated tree must be within a nicely landscaped area. All present Tree Board Members agreed.

There was discussion of the American Forests organization in which a person can nominate a large majestic tree.

**A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Charles Sandell to accept the revised F.L.O.W.E.R. Award form with the additional category, "Treemendous Tree," approved unanimously by Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell (4-0), with Stormi Bivin, William Gross and Joan Kaplan absent.**

Debbie Evans pointed out that she noticed on the criteria for the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award (first page of the criteria, at the bottom of the form), "This award program focuses on the front yard only and any landscaping improvements that have been made." Ms. Evans advised that she always looked at it as

being street side. It has not made any difference to her, whether it was on the front, side or back and perhaps there is a word that needs to be changed, instead of saying, "This award program focuses on the front yard only" it should be changed to "focuses on street side yards." Mr. Hopper agreed that the intent was to nominate a property on what you can see from the street and to keep people out from trying to invade people's privacy. Mr. Hopper agreed that the wording could probably be edited to "street side" or "what can be seen from the street." Mr. Hopper said he will note the edit and will reach out to Stormi Bivin to make sure she agrees with the suggested change.

VII. New Business

A. Election of Officers (Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson)

**A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Kay Brown to retain the present Board: Ms. Stormi Bivin as Chairperson and Ms. Debbie Evans as Vice Chairperson and was unanimously approved by Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell (4-0), with Stormi Bivin, William Gross and Joan Kaplan absent.**

VIII. Comments

Tree Board members and Brian Hopper all agreed that the Earth/Arbor Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> had a great turnout. The fact that it was held late afternoon on a Saturday and also followed by a family event at the Amphitheater helped to bring in more people. It was agreed that the Earth/Arbor Day event should be held on a Saturday each year as it increases attendance. Brian Hopper advised that he will contact Michelle Garvey to make that request. There was also discussion that the response to the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award has been growing every year.

Debbie Evans inquired about the Commemorative Tree Planting Program and whether Council members are aware of the program and if it was approved. Mr. Hopper advised that the Commemorative Tree Planting Program was approved and Council members are aware of the program. There was discussion about the tree canopy study. Mr. Hopper advised that it is budgeted (\$35,000) for this fiscal year and all the specifications were given to Purchasing. Once a vendor is selected, the information will be entered into Wellington's GIS section. Mr. Hopper advised that they probably will not be able to get into highly dense areas, but will begin first with roadways.

Ms. Evans asked if Mr. Hopper could please send the link to "Americas Biggest Trees" to all Tree Board members.

Debbie Evans stated that the oldest Cypress tree, “the Senator,” was located in central Florida until it was destroyed by a fire. Ms. Evans advised that information on “the Senator” can be googled.

Dr. Charles Sandell brought up the topic of charcoal and forest fires. When the leaves burn, they leave charcoal behind and when the rainwater hits the charcoal it is very purifying to the rainwater. Therefore, a forest fire creates a charcoal filter for the water and actually purifying some of the elements out of the water. So the fact that the leaves burn and leave charcoal behind is part of the plan and not a total waste.

IX. Adjourn

**A motion was made by Charles Sandell, seconded by Richard Cosola to adjourn at 2:48 pm, agreed unanimously by Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell (4-0), with Stormi Bivin, William Gross and Joan Kaplan absent.**

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Approved and Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

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Chris Macfarlane, Assistant Recording Secretary